



13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary)

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[09 21, 2009] 16th SB NCOs reflect on deployment at ceremony

13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) Public Affairs

CONTINGENCY OPERATING LOCATION- Q-West, Iraq – The 16th

Sustainment Brigade held a ceremony Sept. 19. to recognize over 150 non commissioned officers in a Year of the NCO ceremony at the post theater in Q-West, Iraq.

Command Sgt. Major James E. Spencer, senior enlisted advisor, 16th Sustainment Brigade said the ceremony was designed to highlight the impact the deployment has had on the NCOs and their families.

“In early January 2009 the Secretary of the Army and Sgt. Major of the Army dedicated 2009 as the year of the NCO,” said Spencer. “This year of dedication is for everyone to take a pause and thank the NCO Corps and their families for all their contributions and personal sacrifices.”

Historical and daily accounts of life as an NCO are exemplified by acts of courage and a dedication and willingness to do whatever it takes to complete the mission.

NCOs have been celebrated for decorated service in military events ranging from Valley Forge to Gettysburg, to current conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq.

The ceremony had a representative from each rank of the NCO Corp speak on what being an NCO means to them and on how the current deployment has impacted them and their family lives.

Sgt. David P. Miller, personal security team, 16th SB and Diamond Springs, Calif. Native who was chosen to speak as representative for the Sgt's.

Miller said being an NCO is about accomplishment of the mission and the welfare of the Soldiers.

"It's about providing the Soldiers outstanding leadership, being fair and placing their needs above our own whether it is personal time or at work," said Miller.

Miller said the deployment has brought stress to his family life, especially since they have a new child.

"You deal with the stress as you go along, but that comes with the territory, it helps if you and your spouse are really dedicate to the relationship," said Miller.

Miller said there is a difference between being an NCO and the rank itself.

"It is a mindset, if you're an NCO you need to succeed not only professionally but in life as well," said Miller.

Every NCO in the 16th SB was presented a certificate of appreciation at the ceremony and was concluded with words from the Command Sergeant Major.

Spencer said looking back at this deployment he could clearly see the brigade has truly left a permanent mark in the sand which will serve as a guide to their successors.

“Our NCOs have performed exceptionally well in providing world class support to the combat forces across the Corps,” said Spencer.

Spencer said while their accomplishments have been many, everyone needs to stay vigilant and finish strong.

“As your brigade CSM, I could not have asked for a more competent and professional group of NCO’s,” said Spencer. “I am proud of our accomplishments and ask that you all stay focused so we get home safe and sound to our families.”

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Col. Martin B. Pitts, commander, 16th Sustainment Brigade presents a certificate of appreciation to Staff Sgt. Victor M. Sotomayor, property book office

team chief, 16th SB and Rio Grande, Puerto Rico. The Year of the NCO ceremony was held Sept.19. to recognize all NCOs of the 16th SB.